

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO DEPT OF TREASURY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECSTATE WASHDC 4016

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E)

SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON TO UAE

1. I MET WITH MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAIF GHUBBASH AND MIN PET OTAIBA TODAY TO NAIL DOWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT. WE HAVE SOMEWHAT CLEARER PICTURE OF THINGS AS RESULT THESE MEETINGS, BUT UAE SIDE UNFORTUNATELY NOT YET IN POSITION MAKE FINAL DECISION ON SEVERAL POINTS. THIS WILL DEPEND ON SHAIKH ZAYED'S WISHES, WHICH HIS MINISTERS WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN THIS EVENING. I HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH GHUBBASH SCHEDULED FOR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING, AFTER WHICH WE WILL IMMEDIATELY CABLE FINAL INFORMATION TO SIMON PARTY.

2. GHUBBASH AND I WILL ALSO ATTEMPT AT THAT TIME TO PUT TOGETHER LANGUAGE FOR JOINT STATEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS INITIALLY COOL TO IDEA OF JOINT STATEMENT, BUT I BELIEVE THEY ARE NOW PREPARED TO HAVE ONE. DRAFT PREPARED IN WASHINGTON WILL BE BASIS FOR STATEMENT. GHUBBASH SAID MOST OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE AGREEABLE TO UAEG, BUT SOME CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE (NOTABLY PARAS ON TRADE AND ON JOINT EFFORTS TO HELP LDC'S). UAEG WILL ALSO HAVE SOME LANGUAGE IT WOULD LIKE TO ADD, BUT GHUBBASH DID NOT THINK THESE ADDITIONS WOULD CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR US.
STERNER

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